Chapter VI. Trade.

Traders.

The leading traders are Sásashtkárs, Gujar Vánis, and Bhátiás on the coast, and Lingáyats in the uplands. Except a large number of Gujar Vánis at Kumta who are cotton agents to Bombay merchants some of these traders are men of capital and others do business on borrowed capital.

Trade Centres.

The chief places of trade on the coast are Kárwár, Sadáshivgad, Chendiya, and Binghi in Kárwár; Belikeri, Ankola, and Gangávali in Ankola; Gokarn, Tadri, and Kumta in Kumta; and Honávar, Manki, Murdeshvar, Shiráli, and Bhatkal in Honávar. In the uplands the chief trade centres are Haliyál, Supa, and Ulvi in Supa; Mundgod, Yellápur, Malgi, and Palla in Yellápur; Sirsi, Banavási, and Sonda in Sirsi; and Gersappa, Siddápur, and Bilgi in Siddápur.

Fairs.

Of local fairs or *jatrás* the three most important are at Gokarn, Sirsi, and Ulvi in Supa. The articles sold at these fairs are copper, brass, iron, and bell-metal vessels, European and country-made cotton and woollen piece-goods; and of sundry articles, toys, glass bangles, coral beads, and pearls. Besides these, at Gokarn, buffaloes, cows, sheep, and other cattle are brought for sale. At Gokarn two fairs are held every year, the greater being in honour of Mahádev on the *Shivarátra* Day in *Mágh* (February-March) and the smaller in *Kártik* (November). The greater or *Mágh* fair lasts fifteen days and is attended by 20,000 to 35,000 people, about one-half coming from Belgaum and Dhárwár. The value of the articles sold at the fair is estimated at about £2500 (Rs. 25,000). At the smaller or *Kártik* fair 100,000 lamps are lighted at *Shiv's* temple, and the attendance of pilgrims is about 5000, most of them being from the district. As Gokarn is one of the chief places of Shaiv pilgrimage in India, small parties of pilgrims are always found there. During the year the number of such pilgrims does not exceed 10,000. The Sirsi fair is held in honour of the goddess *Mari* every second year in *Paush*, *Mágh*, or *Fálgun* (January, February, or March), and lasts for about a fortnight. It is attended by about 12,000 people, some coming from Belgaum, Dhárwár, and Maisur. The value of the articles sold is estimated at about £1000 (Rs. 10,000). The Ulvi fair is held every year in *Mágh* (February-March) and lasts four days. It is attended by about 5000 people, not less than three-fourths of whom are Lingáyats; the value of the articles sold is estimated at about £300 (Rs. 3000).

Shopkeepers.

Almost every large village has a shopkeeper, but in remote forest tracts the people have to go to the nearest trade-centre for supplies. Below the Sahyádris the shopkeepers are generally local Sásashtkárs, Vánis, Musalmáns, and sometimes Christians. Above the Sahyádris they are generally Lingáyats. They deal in grain, spices, salt, oil, sugar, molasses, cocoanuts, tobacco, betel leaves and nuts, clarified butter, dates, iron and brass ware, and various other articles. The buyers are the people of the neighbourhood and travellers. The shopkeeper buys his stock from wholesale dealers at the chief town of his sub-division, where imports from Bombay, Hubli, and other places are kept in store. If in good circumstances he often gets his supplies direct from Bombay, Hubli, or Dhárwár. The village cloth-dealer's stock meets the ordinary demands of the

villagers, but does not afford room for such choice as is required on wedding and other special occasions. Some Bohorás and Memans, who in the fair season come from Bombay to Kárwár, Kumta, and Honávar, go from house to house in villages lying along the main lines of traffic, selling cloth, chintz, blankets, and other goods.

Peddlers.

Next to village shopkeepers come the peddlers who are known as Jogis. They generally sell beads, coral, thimbles, needles, bells, glasses, toys, and other articles, travelling from village to village. They come in large numbers to the fairs held at Gokarn, Ulvi, and Sirsi, where their wares find a ready sale.

Exports.

Of Exports the chief articles are, of fibres, cotton; of dyes, myrobalans; of grains, rice both husked and unhusked; of spices, betelnuts, cardamoms, black pepper, and long pepper or chillies; of timber, ebony, teak, black sandal, and firewood, and bamboos; and of miscellaneous articles, salt, horns and hides, honey and wax, and fish.

Cotton.

Cotton mostly comes to the coast from Dhárwár for export to Bombay. It is grown in Dhárwár by Lingáyats, Maráthás, and other classes of husbandmen. Cotton is sometimes taken by the growers to Kumta and Kárwár, but is mostly sold to local dealers from whom the growers often receive in advance about one-fourth of the value of the cotton agreed to be given at harvest. The local dealers sell the cotton either in the chief Dhárwár markets or send it to the coast. On the coast cotton is either sold to Bombay merchants or sent to Bombay for sale through commission agents who pay in advance part of the value of the cotton consigned to them either by bills or in cash. The traders are European merchants, Gujars that is Kutch Bhátiás and Gujarát Vánis, and Dhárwár and Belgaum dealers. Some are agents and others are independent traders. The carriage of cotton from Dhárwár to Kárwár costs 16*s.* to £1 (Rs. 8 - Rs. 10) a cart or 4*s.* (Rs. 2) a *dokra* of 150 pounds; from Kárwár to Bombay it costs about 4*s.* (Rs. 2) a *khandi* of 560 pounds if sent in country craft and 8*s.* (Rs. 4) if sent in steam-boats.

Myrobalans.

Myrobalans, which are much valued in tanning and in dyeing, grow wild in the Supa and Honávar forests. They are gathered by forest people who are paid by the forest officers at a fixed rate for all they are able to bring. They are sold at auction to European and Native merchants who, as a rule, send them to Bombay by steamer at a cost of about 16*s.* (Rs. 8) the ton.

Rice.

Husked rice of two kinds *pandi* and *patni*, is grown in Kánara and exported from the Kánara ports; and unhusked, also of two kinds, *suraya* and *ukra* which is partly grown in Kánara and partly brought from Dhárwar, is shipped from the Kánara ports. On the Kánara coast rice is grown in Kárwár by Konkanis, Bhandáris, Komárpáiks, and Padtis; in Kumta by Kunbis and Nádgis; and in Dhárwár by Lingáyats, Banjigs, and other classes of husbandmen. Most of the rice-growers, being either permanent or yearly lease-holders, pay rents both in grain and in cash. The rice trade is generally in the hands of well-to-do landlords of whom the growers are tenants. By these landlords, chiefly Sárasvats and Shenvis, rice is either sold to Goa traders or sent direct for sale to Goa and the

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Malabár coast in country craft which charge 4*s.* to 6*s.* (Rs. 2 - Rs. 3) a *khandi* of 560 pounds for a trip to Kochin.

Exports.

Spices.

Of spices, betelnuts cardamoms and black pepper are grown chiefly by Havigs in the Sirsi, Yellápur, and Siddápur uplands. Chillies which are grown by Lingáyats and others are brought for export from Dhárwár. Betelnuts, cardamoms, and black pepper are brought to the coast on pack-bullocks and chillies in carts. The cost of conveyance is about 6*s.* (Rs. 3) a *khandi* of 560 pounds. The traders are Gujars, Vánis, Gaud Sárasvats, and other local dealers. They generally sell these articles to the coast merchants who send them to Bombay in country craft.

Timber.

Of timber, teak, blackwood, ebony, and firewood go from Kadra, Salgari, and other Kánara forests, the teak in logs of seventy-five to 150 cubic feet each. Sandalwood mostly comes for export to Honávar from Ságar and Shimoga in Maisur. The forest timber, which is Government property, is sold by Government to merchants and contractors either in the forest or at the wood-stores. It is mostly exported to Bombay, Goa, Ratnágiri, and Gujarát. From the forests the bamboos are taken to the nearest port either by head-loads or in carts; from the coast they go chiefly to Bombay and Goa.

Salt.

Most of the local salt is sold at Katgal and Dengi in Kumta by the Sárasvat and Nádgi proprietors of the Sánikatta salt-pans. The buyers are Belgaum and Dhárwár traders who bring for sale to Kumta cotton, rice, and chillies, and take back salt. Except the skins of wild animals which are sent to Europe by European residents of the coast towns, hides and horns mostly go to Bombay. These articles are generally bought by Ratnágiri Khojás from Chámbhárs, Mhárs, Kolekárs, and Madigars, and are sent to Bombay in country craft at a cost of about 4*s.* (Rs. 2) the hundredweight.

Honey.

Fish.

Honey and Wax, the right to collect which is sold every year to the highest bidder, are mostly sent to Bombay, Ratnágiri, and the Malabár coast. Salted fish are sent by Musalmán shopkeepers either to Bombay in country craft, or to Belgaum and Dhárwár by head-loads or in carts.

Imports.

Of Imports the chief articles are, of cotton, coloured and white twist and piece-goods. The twist comes from Bombay and is almost all sent to Dhárwár, Hubli, and Gadag where it is sold to the local weavers. The piece-goods come from Bombay, Mangalor, Kálikat, and Madras. They are partly used locally and partly sent to Belgaum and Dhárwár. Of drugs and medicines, brimstone, camphor, quinine, and assafœtida are brought from Bombay. They are either used locally or sent to Belgaum and Dhárwár. Of dyeing and colouring materials, cochineal and indigo are brought from Bombay by the coast traders who either sell them to the local artisans for dyeing cloth and colouring buildings, or send them to Belgaum, Dhárwár, and other upland parts. Of grain, unhusked rice is brought by coast traders from Bombay, Málvan, Kundápur, Mangalor, Baindur, and Barkur, and sold locally to the pe ople and retail dealers. Wheat of the *baksi*, *pote*, and similar varieties is brought for local use from Karáchi, Gujarát, Bombay,

Imports.

Málvan, and Vengurla. Millet, *jvári* and *bájri* of the *ghátí* and *gujaráti* varieties is brought for local use from Bombay, Málvan, and Vengurla. Of pulses, pigeon pea *tur* Cajanus indicus, common gram *chana* Cicer arietinum, field pea *vatána* Pisum sativum, small fruited kidney *mug* Phaseolus mungo, and lentil *masur* Ervum lens, are brought for local use from Karáchi, Gujarát, Bombay, Málvan, and Vengurla. Of hardware and cutlery, knives, scissors, saws, and plated ware are brought from Bombay either for local use or for export to Belgaum and Dhárwár. Sacks, both machine and hand woven, come from Bombay and Calcutta. The cotton merchants send them to Belgaum and Dhárwár and they are locally used for packing myrobalans. Of metals, copper and brass sheets for making cooking pots, iron and steel for making field-tools and for building purposes, and lead, quicksilver, tin, and zinc for miscellaneous purposes, are brought from Bombay. Most of these imported articles are sent to Belgaum and Dhárwár. Of oils, kerosine, castor, cocoanut, jingelly, and groundnut oils are brought from Bombay, Vengurla, Kochin, Kananur, and Málvan. They are sold wholesale to the local shopkeepers who sell them retail to the people. Cocoanuts, both with and without the husk, are imported from the Malabár coast, Goa, and Anjidiv. They are used either as food or for making oil. Of provisions wet and dry dates are brought by the Arabs from Arabia, Turkey in Asia, Basrah, Quetta, and Bombay. The Arab merchants generally sell these articles to the Kumta and Kárwár traders. They are both locally used and sent to Belgaum and Dhárwár. Salt is brought from Goa and to a less extent from Sind. It is both used locally and sent inland. Of silk, raw silk and silk piece-goods are brought from Bombay and Madras. The silk goods are partly used in Kánara and partly sent to Belgaum, Dhárwár, and Hubli; the whole of the raw silk is sent to Belgaum, Dhárwár, and Hubli. Of spices, cinnamon, cloves, ginger, and nutmegs come from Bombay, Málvan, Vengurla, and Kochin. Part is used locally and the rest is sent to Belgaum and Dhárwár. Of spirits and liquor, ale, beer, brandy, rum, gin, whisky, champagne, claret, port, and sherry are brought in small quantities from Bombay and Colombo by European residents and licensed shopkeepers. Locally foreign wines and spirits are chiefly used by Europeans and Eurasians, the rest is sent to Belgaum and Dhárwár. Of sugar, candied sugar and molasses are brought from Bombay, Málvan, and Vengurla. It is partly used locally and partly sent to Belgaum and Dhárwár. Of tobacco, *rájápuri* or manufactured tobacco and cigars are brought from Málvan, Vengurla, Kálikat, and Madras. It is locally used in smoking, eating, and snuffing. Of wool, raw wool and shawls and other woollen piece-goods are brought from Bombay. Part is used locally and the rest is sent to Belgaum and Dhárwár.

SECTION III.—SEA TRADE.

Steamers.

The traffic by sea is carried on partly by steamers and partly by sailing vessels. Coasting steamers of 1950 to 2600 tons belonging to the British India Steam Navigation Company call weekly at Kárwár throughout the year, and at Kumta during the fair season